



Southern Plains News Release

Southern Plains Regional Field Office · Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767 · 800-626-3142 · www.nass.usda.gov
Cooperating with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry

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Contact: [Doug Rundle](#)
(800) 626-3142

USDA NASS Begins Project to Gather Conservation Data Nationwide

Austin, TX – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be contacting farmers in Texas and Oklahoma from mid-August to late September as part of a national survey of conservation practices. During the first phase of the National Resources Inventory (NRI) – Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), NASS will contact approximately 3,000 farmers and ranchers in the Southern Plains Region to determine if their operations and land meet eligibility criteria to participate in the survey. Farmers and ranchers deemed eligible may be contacted from October 2015 through February 2016 and asked to participate in the survey, part of a two-year project.

"The survey gives farmers and ranchers the power to provide a more complete and accurate picture of the conservation practices they choose to use on their lands and in their operations," said Doug Rundle, director of the NASS Southern Plains Regional Field Office. "If contacted, I urge farmers and ranchers to participate; their responses can help leaders focus on the conservation practices that most benefit both the farmer and the natural resources on which we all rely."

CEAP's purpose is to measure the environmental benefits associated with implementation and installation of conservation practices on cultivated and non-cultivated agricultural lands, according to USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the lead agency for the project. NASS conducts the survey for CEAP under a cooperative agreement with NRCS. Data obtained from the project will help NRCS conservationists and partners determine the efficiency and effectiveness of current conservation techniques and help identify best practices.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified, as required by Federal law. Participants' responses cannot be used for the purposes of taxation, investigation or regulation (Title 7, U.S. Code, and CIPSEA, Public Law 107-347).

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NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide feedback on our products and services. Sign up at http://bit.ly/NASS_Subscriptions and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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